

Message Text

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TAGS : PFOR OREP

SUBJECT : FURTHER ON CODEL STOKES' TALKS WITH PAIGC SEC GEN

REF: CONAKRY 1836 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS REPORTED REFTEL PAIGC SECRETARY GENERAL, ARISTIDES PEREIRA, IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES ON NOVEMBER 27, MADE OTHER INTERESTING COMMENTS, CONCERNING PORTUGAL AND PORTUGAL'S ALLIES. MAIN ONE WAS THAT PAIGC NOT ONLY WILLING TO TALK WITH PORTUGUESE BUT WOULD BE BE WILLING TO GRANT THEM CONCESSIONS AND GUARANTEE THEIR PREFERENTIAL POSITION IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF INDEPENDENT GUINEA BISSAU. PAIGC ENCOURAGED BY FAVORABLE CHANGES IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR LIBERATION MOVEMENT ON THE PART OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN NATIONS. IN ADDITION TO SCANDINAVIANS AND DUTCH, PEREIRA PARTICULARLY MENTIONED SPEECH BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE UNGA ON OCTOBER 8. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MORE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY NATO ALLIES OF PORTUGAL, WOULD INCREASE PRESSURE ON PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO TALK WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS. AT THE END PEREIRA EXPRESSED DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT PORTUGAL WOULD TALK AND SADLY CONCLUDED THE WAR WOULD HAVE TO GO ON.

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2. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM PEREIRA MADE FURTHER COMMENTS ON ACTUAL SITUATION IN GUINEA BISSAU. WHEN PAIGC LEADERS SAY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF TERRITORY OR POPULATION IS UNDER ITS CONTROL, THEY MEAN THAT PAIGC PROVIDES SECURITY, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THIS TERRITORY AND TO POPULATION. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY CONTESTED AREAS IN GUINEA BISSAU, PEREIRA SAID THERE ARE VERY, VERY FEW LEFT AS MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IS CONTROLLED BY PAIGC WHILE URBAN CENTERS ARE FORTIFIED AND CONTROLLED BY PORTUGAL.

3. MESSAGE PEREIRA TRIED TO GET ACROSS TO STOKES IS THE SAME AS HE AND OTHER PAIGC LEADERS HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING WITH THEIR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN CONTACTS OVER LONG PERIOD. FIRST OF ALL, PAIGC BELIEVES PORTUGAL'S NATO ALLIES AND PARTICULARLY THE US CAN PLAY A MOST EFFECTIVE ROLE IN LIBERATING GUINEA BISSAU AND STOPPING BLOODSHED BY PRESSURING PORTUGAL INTO AGREEING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE. SECONDLY, PEREIRA WAS GETTING ACROSS THE IDEA THAT PAIGC IS NOT A TOOL OF ANY FOREIGN POWER, DOES NOT LOOK ON INDEPENDENCE AS A CURE-ALL FOR THE IMPOVERISHED AREA OF GUINEA BISSAU BUT BELIEVES THAT SELF-RULE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OTHER NEED. HE WAS ALSO REITERATING THE STANDARD PAIGC POSITION THAT AN INDEPENDENT GUINEA BISSAU WOULD NEED AND WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH PORTUGAL WHICH COULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.
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